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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 3545	Press ~~Mis.~~
53-554	
Dated 23. 11. 1865.	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

DP

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
23rd November 1865.*

No. 553. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the
Revenue Department :—

Intimating that any proposal for Public Works)
which may afford employment to the poorer) (Here enter 17th November 1865, No. 2,819.)
classes in the Ganjam District will receive)
favorable consideration.

No. 554. ORDER THEREON, 23rd November 1865, No. 3,545.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 80.

1. Communicated to the Superin-
tending Engineer of the 1st Division.

2. In separate Proceedings, Ru-
pees 12,130 have been allotted for the immediate execution of the undermentioned
works :—

	RS.
Cutting channels at the Salt Pans in Ganjam	4,610
Constructing an Anicut across the Godawhalla river in do.	7,520

(True Extract.)

(Signed) CHARLES A. ORR, Colonel, R. E.,

Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineer, 1st Division.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
17th November 1865.*

Read the following:—

No. 299. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 13th November 1865.
Read the following letter from the Acting Collector of Ganjam, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Chetterpore, 25th October 1865, No. 2,244.

1. I have the honor to forward, for the information of the Board, copy of a letter received from Captain Philipps, Executive Engineer of this part of the District, detailing the state of the crops in the part of the country under his supervision.

2. I regret that Captain Philipps' account is corroborated by the reports of the Revenue Officers, and by my own observation.

3. In the Berhampore and Ganjam portions of the Talooks, large tracts of paddy have withered or are withering.

4. The crops in Chicacole and the neighbourhood are in a better condition, but I am informed that unless rain should fall speedily there will be much loss there also.

5. In Goomsur, Kemidy, and the Maliahs the crops are said to be good.

6. Large supplies of grain are usually drawn from the Cuttack and Pooree Districts by way of the Chilka lake, and this trade is generally continuous throughout the year, but for the last month it has entirely ceased, and this has been followed by a general closing of the stores of grain throughout this part of the country.

7. For the last ten days rice and other grains have been procured with the greatest difficulty, the bazaars have been almost closed, and it has been with great trouble that the troops at Berhampore, the Police, and other Establishments have been supplied, and the sufferings of the poor are in many places very great. This state of affairs exists, as I am at present informed, in the Berhampore, Russelcondah, Poorshottapore, Ganjam, and Chetterpore Divisions.

8. I am not able at present to state whether this cessation of trade is owing to any real scarcity of food in the country, or whether it is caused by the bad prospects of the harvest here and in Bengal, and by the desire of the merchants to hold back their stocks until the season is more advanced and prices are higher.

9. I am informed by those who ought to know, that there is no real scarcity, and although the crops here are bad, there is every prospect of the District producing ample for its own supply during the coming harvest.

10. I shall do all in my power to keep the markets open, and trust that before long the bazaars will be supplied again as usual.

11. One cause of the heavy failure of crops is found in the practice of the people of this District to plant paddy in every available piece of ground, without reference to means of irrigation; usually the rain fall is good and a fair crop is reared without much irrigation, but in bad seasons, like the past and the present, the loss of crop is very severe.

Submitted for the information of Government. The Board regret to learn that the prospects of the harvest are so very unfavorable.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
17th November 1865.*

No. 300. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 13th November 1865.

Read the following letter from the Acting Collector of Ganjam, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Chettpore, 2nd November 1865, No. 2,344.

1. In continuation of my letter of the 25th ultimo, No. 2,244, I have the honor to forward copy of a letter from the Commissioner of Cuttack, from which it will be seen that there has been a similar cessation of sales there.

2. It is, I believe, the stoppage of the usual supply from that country that has led to the panic here. The people of this District have learned to look to Cuttack and Pooree as certain source of supply, and the prices throughout the year here having been high, the traders have disposed of their stocks to a great extent, depending on the coming harvest and on the northern markets to meet the wants of this District.

3. The prospects of the former are very bad, as no rain whatever has fallen since the change of the monsoon, and the latter source has entirely failed.

4. On the suggestion of the Secretary to Government, I have telegraphed to the Calcutta Chamber of Commerce the state of affairs, in the hope that it may be found worth the while of merchants to make shipments to this place. I have also been in communication with the leading Native merchants, and they are exerting themselves to procure supplies from elsewhere.

5. It is very difficult to form an estimate of the stock of rice in the country, but I fear it cannot be very large, or it would not be so long withheld, and I am told roughly that it may amount to a month's or two months' supply; but then a small portion only of this will find its way into the market, and much will naturally be withheld by the holders for their own use.

6. Berhampore is the only market which is regularly open, and there rice is procured with much difficulty, and by the last accounts, was selling at seven Seers per Rupee.

7. I have this day in reply to a telegram from the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, stated that a supply of 2,000 bags sent to Ganjam or Gopaulpore now would find ready sale at that rate, or even at a still higher price.

Submitted for the information of Government.

No. 301: ORDER THEREON, 17th November 1865, No. 2,819.

Miscellaneous.

1. The Government have learnt with much regret of the unfavorable prospects of the season in the Ganjam District.

2. The Collector has already been informed by telegram that the "Punjab" will take a supply of rice hence, and information has since been received that measures have already been taken in Chittagong for throwing in an early supply.

3. The Government see reason to hope that high prices will produce their proper and natural effect of attracting large supplies before actual suffering has

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
17th November 1865.*

been felt, and while the supplies are scanty, it is for the advantage of all that high prices should induce the utmost economy of consumption.

4. The Government are prepared to consider favorably any proposal for public works, which by affording employment to the poorer classes may help them to tide over these hard times.

(True Extract.)

[Signature]
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
the Department of Public Works.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

277 18352 Date

Pro. of fine hour

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No. of Good in the

Revenue of 1835

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277 18352

Continuing that

any progress for public
works which may afford
employment to the
poorer classes in the
hospitals of the poor

hospitals of the poor
will be considered
with an order

and

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1. Current to the

2. In separate

Proceedings, by the

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works.

cutting channels at the
Salt River in Hampshire. 1835

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